



METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Welcome!

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
To all who mourn and long for comfort;
To all who struggle and desire victory;
To all who sin and need a Savior;
To all who are strangers and want fellowship;
And to whoever will come –

*This church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

God Calls Us To Worship

Responsive Call to Worship from Ps. 28:6-9

Leader: Blessed be the LORD!
Unison: For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
Leader: The LORD is my strength and my shield;
Unison: In Him my heart trusts, and I am helped.
Leader: My heart exults,
Unison: And with my song I give thanks to Him.
Leader: The LORD is the strength of His people;
Unison: He is the saving refuge of His anointed.
Leader: Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage!
Unison: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Trinity Hymnal #457

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the Mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come.
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it –
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

Born Again

Theme Verses

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." John 3:1-5

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Trinity Hymnal #334

Breathe on me, Breath of God;
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure;
Until my will is one with Thine,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine;
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God;
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 31-32

Leader:

Why is Jesus called *Christ*, that is, Anointed?

Unison:

Because He has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.

Leader:

Why are you called a Christian?

Unison:

Because I am a member of Christ by faith and thus share in His anointing, so that I may as prophet confess His name, as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him, and as king fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and hereafter reign with Him eternally over all creatures.

“There is a Redeemer”

There is a Redeemer:
Jesus, God’s own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

(Refrain)

Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done.

Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain. **(Refrain)**

When I stand in glory,
I will see His face.
Then I’ll serve my King forever
In that holy place. **(Refrain)**

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison:

O eternal God and merciful Father, we humbly come into the presence of Your majesty, to confess our innumerable wrongs and spiritual bankruptcy. We know that Your merciful arms are infinite, reaching out to hold whoever comes. And so we are encouraged, deeply moved to call for Your help, because we trust in Jesus Christ, our mediator and sacrificial lamb, who takes away the sin of the world. Please, Lord, forgive us all our sins for Christ’s sake; look with compassion upon our frailty and wash us in the pure fountain of Jesus’ blood. Give us new minds and eager, submissive hearts.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon
Based on 1 Pet. 2:24

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

Know that if you are a believer in Jesus, God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

“To God Be the Glory”

Trinity Hymnal #55

To God be the glory; great things He has done!
So loved He that world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the lifegate that we may go in.

(Refrain)

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives. **(Refrain)**

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Intercession – MPC Elder – Bill Camp

Lord’s Prayer

Unison: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word – Acts 9:19b-31

Applying God's Word

Colin Deay

“From Persecutor to Preacher”

Sermons can be listened to, or downloaded, through our web site

We Respond To God's Grace

Investing In God's Work (continue in silent prayer)

Closing Song – **“O God Beyond All Praising”**

Trinity Hymnal #660

O God beyond all praising, we worship You today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your Word,
We honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know Your favor may serve You as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
To marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Benediction

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Words by Robert Robinson, Music by Asahel Nettleton.
“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” Words by Edwin Hatch, Music by Robert Jackson. **“There is a Redeemer”** Words and music by Melody Green – © 1982 Universal Music, Birdwing Music. All rights reserved. **“To God Be the Glory”** Words by Fanny J. Crosby, Music by William H. Doane. **“O God Beyond All Praising”** Words by Michael Perry, Music by Gustav Holst – Text © 1982 Hope Publishing co., All rights reserved. CCLI License # 451603.

Living the Metrocrest Vision – Announcements for the Week

Our Mission: *In dependence on Christ, we worship God the Father, grow in the grace of His Son, and serve our community and the world in the power of His Spirit.*

To do this, we strive as a community to **Worship, Walk, and Work** together.

Opportunities for Worship

- **June 7, 2020:** Join us as Dr. Paul Fowler preaches on Acts 9:32-43.
- **Life Change** for the month of May will support **Third Millennium Ministries**. Their goal is to provide Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry by publishing and globally distributing a free multilingual, multimedia, digital seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Russian and Spanish.
- **Youth Ministry:** Tonight, *The Gathering*, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, meets from 6:00 - 7:30pm at the church.
- **Tabletalk Devotions** are available free of charge to aid in your personal, daily worship of God. If you'd like a copy mailed to you, please contact Laura at the church office.

Opportunities to Walk and Work together

- **Women's Ministry:** On **Tuesdays from 10-11 AM**, there will be a **Ladies' Prayer Time** hosted by Gwen Sterenberg via Zoom. Enjoy some coffee and a time to pray with other ladies from the church all in the comfort of your own home. More details and the Zoom meeting invitation are available via Realm, or you may contact the church office for details.
- **Care Groups** are still meeting throughout the week and month. Please reach out to your care group leader for more details.
- **Men's Book Study:** Our book study has adjourned for the summer. Stay tuned for details about our next group that will be starting in the fall!
- **Staff Search Committee:** Please be in prayer for our staff search committee, and that God will bring the right candidate to our church.

Coming Soon

- **Women's Ministry:** Join us this summer as we study the book of Ephesians virtually with all of the ladies in the PCA. For information on signing up and on purchasing a study book, please go to <https://pcacdm.org/hbs/> or to Realm.

Sermon Text: Acts 9:19b-31

19 For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Sermon Title: From Persecutor to Preacher

I. From Persecutor to Preacher

II. Paul's Pattern – Proclaim and Prove

III. Peace in the Church

Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you have a prayer request that you'd like to share, please click [here](#).

Investing in God's Work:

Last Week's Offering:	\$ 7,453	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 368,328
May Total Giving:	\$ 20,784	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 355,008

Difference to date + or - (- \$13,320)

In order to fund our annual operating budget goal of \$407,508, our monthly giving should meet or exceed \$33,959, which comes to about \$7,837 per week. Our budget fiscal year is July 2019 - June 2020.



Let's get connected! **Realm** allows you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us through the church office at info@metrocrestchurch.org and we will help you get on your way!

Paul Fowler
Laura Stites
Colin Deay
Steve Thomas
Teresa Abood
Karen Raquet
Jay Marble

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The Session (Elders)
Bill Camp
Troy Carter
David Sheets
James Woods

The Diaconate
Bill Greisser
Daniel Greisser
Tom Owen
Steve Thomas

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